

# ANIMAL SHELTER

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Duxbury Clipper

## Animal Shelter Update

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

The architect for the new animal shelter will meet with project coordinators on Friday to discuss how much new, scaled-back plans will cost.

According to shelter fundraising coordinator Annie Eldridge of Harrison St., the architect said he has many ideas that will cut the cost of the project from the initial \$266,000 to \$175,000, which is the budget. Eldridge, Animal Control Officer Haley Parlin, and acting DPW director Peter Buttkus will meet with the architect this week to find out how much redesigned plans will cost. The architect will also tell them the price of a cost estimate analysis for the project.

Eldridge will report the new information to selectmen after she receives it. Then selectmen will decide whether to authorize the new plans or investigate other options. Eldridge has contacted the contractor who supplied Kingston with plans for their new animal shelter, and she is waiting for a reply. These ready-made plans could meet Duxbury's needs as the town has the same number of licensed dogs as Kingston, said Eldridge.

If the town authorizes the

redesign, the architect could be done in a month, she said.

Last summer, the architect's estimate for a 30 ft by 40 ft building with six indoor kennels, two isolation kennels, a cat room, a kitchen, and a bathroom totaled \$266,452. However, town officials felt this price was too high.

The town has not asked taxpayers to fund the cost of the new shelter, but has received many donations and hopes to raise more money that way. The town had \$66,192 for a new shelter but it paid the architect over \$9,500 for the plans. The current balance is \$56,629. The cost of new plans will be deducted from this amount.

The new shelter will be located behind the Department of Public Works facility on Tremont St.

Eldridge said she and her team of volunteers are anxious to begin fundraising.

"My committee is chomping at the bit and is ready to go," Eldridge told selectmen at their meeting Monday night.

"We're looking for an April 1<sup>st</sup> kickoff," she added.

Selectman Margaret Kearney commended Eldridge's efforts to get the project back on track.